

Legal Status of the “Paperless Bridge”

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**OJAG Code 10 (International/
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Possible Legal Prohibitions

- International Law
- Domestic Law
- Interagency (DoD/Navy)
Regulation

International Law

- **International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)**
- **Chapter V (Safety of Navigation), Regulation 20: “all ships to carry adequate and up-to-date charts...”**
- **Military ships are exempt**
 - **But DoN policy is to comply**

Modification:

- **Regulation 19.2.1:**
- **“All ships irrespective of size shall have:**
- **...nautical charts and nautical publications...; an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) may be accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements...”**

Performance Standards

- Resolution A.817(19), Nov 95, states that ECDIS can satisfy SOLAS requirement of up-to-date charts. Lists performance standards. (Military ships exempt)
- CNO prescribed minimum performance standards for Navy, based on A.817(19)

Domestic Law

- **33 C.F.R. Part 164**
 - **U.S. government (Coast Guard) navigation and safety regulations**
 - **Based on SOLAS**

Old Rule

- **All vessels**
- **1600 gross tons or more**
- **In U.S. navigable waters**
 - **Will carry “printed marine charts published by National Ocean Service or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers” – that means paper**
- **No exemption for military**

New Rule

- **Effective 31 July 2001**
- **Exempts “warships”**
- **Also exempts “other vessels owned, leased or operated by the U.S. Government and used only in government noncommercial service”**

- **PROVIDED...**

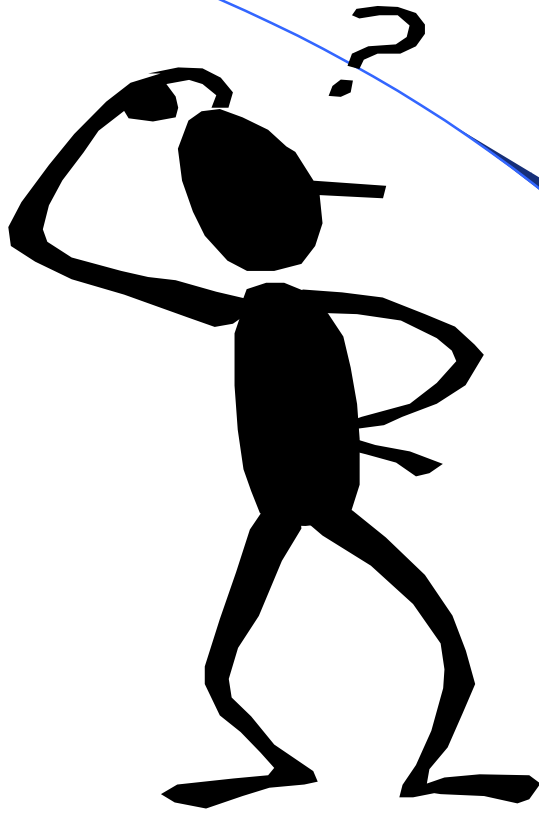
New Rule (cont.)

- **...the electronic navigation system has met the applicable agency (i.e., Navy) regulations regarding navigation safety.”**

Interagency (DoD/Navy) Regulations

- OPNAVINST 3120.32C of 11 Apr 94 requires “the current authorized allowance of nautical and aeronautical charts and publications”
- OPNAVINST 9420.2, “requirement for paper charts as the primary means of navigation will continue until all U.S. Navy vessels implement ECDIS-N.”

Uh...what did she say?



BOTTOM LINE:

- **There is now no legal prohibition on the use of ECDIS-N as the primary means of navigation by military ships operating in U.S. navigable waters...**

CAVEAT (naturally)

- ...assuming, of course, that ECDIS-N complies with the IMO/Navy guidelines.